



League of Women Voters
of Hingham Announces:

Call to Annual Meeting

Wednesday May 21st, 2008

6:30p.m.

South Shore Country Club
274 South Street, Hingham

SPEAKER: Jane Malme
“How LWV Inspired Her Career”

Buffet Dinner \$35.00 per person.
(tax, coffee and dessert included in price)

Cash Bar

Make Checks out to: League of Women Voters of Hingham
Send check and information to:

Dina O’Neil
7 Park View Drive, Hingham, MA 02043

Kindly Respond by May 14th.



Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

www.hingham.ma.lwvnet.org/

Hingham Voter

Serving the Towns of Hingham, Hull, Cohasset and Norwell

April 2008

LWV of Hingham Board 2007—2008

President: Julie Strehle

VP Voter Education:

Deborah Courteau

VP Advocacy:

Melanie Quackenbush

Secretary: Victoria Milano

Treasurer: Marisa Costello

Membership:

Christine Dietterich

Publicity: Jerry Elsdén

Web Site & Newsletter:

Lynn Cotter

Green Study Co-Chairs:

Kate Boland, Elizabeth Fetsko

Events Coordinator: Dina

O'Neil

Advisors: Cindy Coe, Cathy

Salisbury

President's Letter

Dear Members,

It is that time of year for our **Call to Annual Meeting**. Please see the enclosed flyer for Annual Meeting, to be held on Wednesday, May 21, and sign up today! We have one of our very own members, Jane Malme as a speaker this year. The Board had discussed inviting a woman of great accomplishment to come speak at our event this year, and we did not have to look far for that woman!

Jane Malme credits the LWV of Hingham with inspiring her to get involved in local and state government. After serving as Hingham League President, on several town boards and as Legislative Director of the State LWV, she went on to earn a law degree and work for the Mass. Department of Revenue. Most recently she has been involved in the study and implementation of property tax policy as a Fellow at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. She considers it a special privilege to help with reform efforts in the transitional countries in the Baltics and Eastern Europe. Jane is a remarkable person and I look forward to hearing about her experiences at Annual Meeting.

Our event will be held again this year at the South Shore Country Club. Our Board will also bring members up to date on League business. I hope that you can make it!



Left to Right: Barbara Ward, Linden Ponds, Julie Strehle, President, LWV of Hingham, Marcia Hirschberg, Moderator (LWV of Westwood), and Chris Wilk, Coordinator of Candidates Night (LWV of Hingham).

Upcoming Events

Monthly Board Meeting

Tues., May 6 @ 7:30 p.m.
33 Woodlock Rd.
Hingham

Know Your Town Meeting

Tue, May 13 @ 8:00 p.m.
22 French St, Hingham

Hingham Wind Meeting

Wed, May 14 @ 7:00p.m.
Hingham Public Library

Annual Meeting

Wed, May 21 @ 6:30 p.m.
South Shore Country Club
Hingham

LWV of Hingham members have been busy the past month with a couple of events. At the end of March we held a **Consensus meeting** to discuss questions posed by the LWV of Massachusetts' Municipal Finance Study. The meeting was moderated by Laura Marwill, and documented by Cheryl Bierwirth and Marisa Costello. Thanks to members who came out for this informative discussion.

In mid-April, we held our signature annual event, **Candidates Night**, which had 137 in attendance—an impressive number! We owe many thanks to Chris Wilk for organizing this event, and to other members who pitched in with their talents, including Christine Dietterich, Jerry Elsdén, Deb Courteau, Cathy Salisbury, and those members who came out that evening to time candidates' answers, collect questions, etc. Our hosts at Linden Ponds were quite helpful and gracious,

and provided us with a huge audience!

LWV of Hingham will continue its **"I Voted Today"** sticker program on local election day, May 3rd. We have received wonderful feedback from the community about this program, and it's a tradition that we would like to continue for the smaller, local elections. Member Samantha Anderson is coordinating volunteers to pass out stickers, so please contact her if you would like to help! Her email is samantha-bill@comcast.net.

The Board will be brainstorming over the next two months to determine our activities for next year. If you would like to get involved in any small or larger way, or have any suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me at ja.strehle@verizon.net. I hope to see you at Annual Meeting.

Regards,
Julie

**Community Scale Wind: As Clear As Day
May 14, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.**

LWV of Hingham will be co-sponsoring its second discussion on wind energy, provided by Hingham Wind and the Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant, called "Community Scale Wind".

The featured speaker will be Steven J. Strong, an interna-

tionally recognized authority on renewable energy.

In 1999 TIME Magazine named Strong an environmental "Hero for the Planet" and in 2001, the American Solar Energy Society presented him with its highest honor for outstanding achievement in the advancement of solar en-

ergy. In recent years he has set his sights on wind power. He advised Local 103 of the IBEW (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) on installing the first commercial scale wind turbine in the City of Boston, a now-familiar landmark on the Southeast Expressway. He teamed with Cape Wind's Jim Gordon and

Massachusetts general contractor Jay Cashman to design, engineer, and install the first state-owned wind turbine in at Mass Maritime Academy.

Come join us on Wednesday, May 14 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hingham Public Library.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 2, 2008
www.lwv.org

Contact: Maggie Duncan
(202) 263-1332
mduncan@lwv.org

LEAGUE OPPOSES DEPORTATIONS, SUPPORTS EARNED CITIZENSHIP FOR UNAUTHORIZED IMMIGRANTS

League of Women Voters Announces Its Position on Immigration

Washington, DC— The League of Women Voters today announced its official position on immigration reform policy.

"After a lengthy and comprehensive study of this complex issue by our grassroots members," said national League president Mary G. Wilson, "the League's position calls for a path to citizenship for current unauthorized immigrants."

"As part of overall immigration reform, the League supports a system for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status, including citizenship, by paying taxes, learning English, studying civics and meeting other relevant criteria," Wilson stated. "We oppose deportations of current unauthorized immigrants who have no history of serious criminal activity," she said.

The full immigration policy approved by the national League's Board of Directors in March was studied by the organization's membership for more than eighteen months. The policy achieved member consensus through a survey of the nearly 850 local Leagues.

Other elements of the League's position include support for increased enforcement personnel at borders, more effective tracking of individuals who enter the U.S., and significant fines and penalties for employers who hire unauthorized workers. Furthermore, the League will champion due process for all persons, including the right to a fair hearing, right to counsel, right of appeal and right to humane treatment. The League position sets criteria for legal admission to the U.S., including family reunification of spouses or minor children; economic, business and employment needs in the U.S.; political persecution or humanitarian crises; and studying in the U.S.

The League will use this recently adopted position to guide its advocacy work on federal legislation introduced on this very important public policy issue.

Candidate's Night April 17, 2008

Candidates Night was held on Thursday evening, April 17, at Linden Ponds in Hingham. The turnout was impressive—close to 140 people attended! The event was moderated by Marcia Hirshberg of the Westwood-Walpole League, whose good humor and quick wit put everyone at ease—candidates and the audience alike.

The evening began with statements read by uncontested candidates. The moderator read a statement from Sarah Corey (Planning Board). Then the following candidates gave two minute statements: Thomas O'Donnell (Moderator), Stuart "Greg" Hall (Board of Assessors), James Watson (Housing Authority), Christine Smith (School Committee) and Esther Healey (School Committee).

Questions for the three contested races were collected from the audience and then reviewed by Cathy Salisbury and Laura Marwill. Cindy Coe and Megan Buhr served as timers. Lynn Cotter and Elizabeth Fetsko greeted guests and offered our reusable shopping bags for sale.

The Board of Selectmen race was highlighted next. Grant Hansel and Bruce Rabuffo, running for the seat vacated by Melissa Tully, answered questions submitted by the audience, including their views on a possible installation of traffic lights at High and Ward Streets or at Cushing and Main Streets; how they intend to support historic preservation; and their thoughts on the focus on downtown Hingham.

Kevin Bulman, running for re-election to the Light Board, then read a two minute statement. His challenger, Roger Freeman, was unable to attend.

For the Sewer Commission race, the incumbent John Brandt and challenger Andrew Spath answered questions relating to the Waste Water Management Study, in which the final report to Town Meeting is overdue; infiltration and inflow problems and how they can be addressed; and problems facing the sewer system in the next ten years.

The final race highlighted at Candidates Night was for Recreation Commission. Scott Bosworth and Tory Dolan answered questions relating to their motivation to run for the Commission; what programs need immediate improvements; plans for accommodating increasing demand for recreation space in town; and their thoughts on ways to promote collaboration among board members.

Linden Ponds provided volunteers who taped the forum for rebroadcast on Comcast local cable TV (on Friday evenings at 8:15 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday at noon and 8:00 p.m. for the next two weeks leading up to the May 3rd election). Candidates Night was also rebroadcast at Linden Ponds.

Chris Wilk did a fantastic job organizing Candidates Night this year. Thanks to her and our other volunteers, it was a great success. This is the LWV of Hingham's signature event, and we encourage all members to attend and see how the League can make a difference by educating the public about Candidates running for local office.



Seated left to right: Candidates for Sewer Commission, Andrew J. Spath and John M. Brandt.



Seated left to right: Candidates for Board of Selectmen, Lawrence Bruce Rabuffo and Grant Hansel.



Seated left to right: Candidates for Recreation Commission, Scott H. Bosworth and Tory S. Dolan

Observer Corps Report

Observer: Laura Marwill
Board: Advisory Committee
Date: Feb. 26, 2008

Joe Bierwirth, Chair
 Irma Lauter, Vice Chair
 Jerry Seelen, Secretary

Call to order: 7:45 pm

Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) Warrant Articles: Paul Healy, Susan Murphy, Katie Lacy: Discussed warrant article to limit scope of Shipyard project to current scope and allow no more mixed-use development projects along the Rte. 3A corridor. Meant to prohibit Shipyard developers from acquiring the Talbots, or other large parcel along 3A and expand across 3A into much larger development. Does allow some contiguous purchases and expansion, (ie: Build. 19, Weber Dodge.) Mixed-use developments are only allowed in commercially zoned areas. Mixed-use must include some residential housing. Warrant would allow a minimum of 100 acres and a maximum of 140.

Also discussed updated parking recommendations: ZBA recognizes that having parking for the sake of parking is neither aesthetically pleasing nor environmentally pleasing. Also open to less impervious surfaces so water can recharge through the ground. A pervious surface may be allowed if it meets proper requirements.

Pleasant Street Scenic Road request: Jane Davis, resident and representative of South Pleasant Street residents, requests that South Pleasant Street be designated a "scenic

road." The designation requires a Planning Board review before any cutting or removal of trees or destruction of stone walls. The goal is to preserve the streetscape and character. Ms. Davis notes that the street was once a thriving dairy farm street and the stone walls and trees are significant. The AdComm needs further details on the requirements for property owners and what area limits are encompassed.

School/Special Town Meeting Update: Mike Barclay reports that the school building committee is still waiting on the state. Expect to have the final cost on Mar. 19, and the MSBA board plans to meet and vote on the proposal Mar. 31.

Town Budget Update: Town Accountant Ted Alexiades is confident we will end up in the black for FY'08.

Building Dept.: Jack Manning revisited the budget to clear up some previous personnel confusions. Budget approved.

Committee Reports: The AdComm accepted the reports as written.

DCR Liability: The AdComm voted to hold harmless the Dept. Of Conservation and Recreation for any work on our waterways.

South Shore Recycling Consortium Intermunicipal Agreement: Membership costs \$4,500 per year and membership provides better trash removal and recycling rates, group contracts which save money, and better access to vendors who buy our recyclables. We dispose of 7,600 tons of trash a year. 9,500 tons are

recycled, a lot of which is brush and trees. Irma Lauter recommends authorization of 5-year extension of the intermunicipal recycling contract as financial benefits outweigh cost within a year. All in favor.

Light Plant: Dave Ellison notes that HMLP has fully funded its OPEB and they have no debt. HMLP is self funding and remits approximately \$500,000 annually (increasing 5% per year) to the town in lieu of taxes to reduce tax rates of Hingham residents. About 50% of light plant's revenues come from commercial customers who could object to too much money going back to the town instead of reduced rates. HMLP pension reserves are invested in the town's general fund. The Adcomm approves request to return investment income earned on these funds to HMLP for the benefit of HMLP employees' pension or other retirement benefit.

The Adcomm. took no action regarding reserve fund transfers since the amount is still in question.

Park Circle Sidewalk: Deferred until next year. Citizen petitioner directed to the Capital Outlay Committee.

Special Legislation: The Adcomm recommends reauthorization of last year's approvals:

- Exempt Deputy Chief from civil service requirements.
- Make Linden Ponds and Derby St. Shoppes liquor licenses site specific.
- Shipyard Improvement District: allows developers to act as a group to get better financing.

Approved previous meeting's minutes.

General business: Letter to Selectman Lissa Tully recommending increase of mooring permit fee for next season.

Meeting adjourned.

Interested in becoming an Observer?

One of the most valuable services a local League can offer its members, and often the community, is to observe.

Participation in the Observer Corps is an excellent way for members to learn about local issues and share this information with League members through Bulletin articles and League meetings. Observers' reports are factual and non-judgmental, present various sides of an issue and are intended to help members to be well-informed before making any decisions concerning possible League or individual action.

The League is a non-partisan, citizen education organization that encourages informed participation of citizens and the role of the Observer is to attend their designated meeting only to observe and take notes and provide information back to League members.

If you are interested in volunteering or participating in this wonderful group, please email obcorp@hingham.ma.lwvnet.org

LWV of Hingham Membership Form

May 2008 – May 2009

Send to:
Marisa Costello
43 Woodlock Road, Hingham, MA 02043

Name _____

2nd Member _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email* _____

*We need your email address so we can alert you from time to time about a League meeting
or let you know when a new Voter newsletter is on our website*

Individual	\$50.
Household	\$75. (\$50, first member; \$25 second)
Full time student	\$25.
CONTRIBUTION	\$ _____
PAYMENT ENCLOSED	\$ _____

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy. We never support or oppose any political party or candidate. We are delighted to get help from our Members. Below is a list of activities in need of your help. Please check or circle any items with which you can assist:

_____ **Voter Education**

- * Help run Candidates Night
- * Register voters
- * Pass out "I Voted Today" stickers at the polls

_____ **Advocacy**

- * Municipal Finance Study
- * Green Study Committee
- * Report on Town Boards with Observer Corps
- * Compile town data for the "Know Your Town" booklet

_____ **Social Event Planning**

- * Plan All-Member meetings, including Annual Meeting

The League of Women Voters of Hingham Reusable Shopping Bag

Looking for the perfect gift for all the shoppers in your life? Do you want to be conscientious about the environment and inspire others to be aware? You can support the Earth and the League of Women Voters of Hingham at the same time: Introducing the League's stylish, lightweight, completely biodegradable, canvas shopping bag. It's the perfect size for the grocery store and other shopping trips.

The League in Hingham is energized and wants to continue to offer and expand its programs. Your participation in this fundraiser will support the "Know Your Town" booklet project, continue to allow us to send out "Thank You for Registering To Vote" postcards and host our annual "Candidates Night" forum.

The price for each canvas bag, measuring 12x17x6 (with a 7-inch gusset) will be \$8, or 3 bags for \$20.

Order Form

Please send in this form with a check made out to
League of Women Voters of Hingham to:
Dina O'Neil, 7 Park View Drive, Hingham, MA 02043

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Canvas Bag	Quantity	Price Each	TOTAL \$
Single Bag	_____	x \$8	= _____
3-Bag Set	_____	x \$20	= _____

(Add \$15 Shipping per address if outside delivery area)

\$ Amount enclosed: _____

Thank you! Questions, call Dina @ 781-749-8450